

U. S. ASKS ALLIES NOT TO ARM SHIPS

Wants France and Italy to Give Pledges as Britain Did.

HINTS AMERICANS MUST TAKE RISK

State Department Seeks to Put
Off Issue Until Case Actu-
ally Arises.

[From The Tokyo Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 27.—Preliminary negotiations between the United States and Japan is believed, to a change of policy on the part of the United States in the arming of merchant vessels, the State Department has communicated to the Japanese government a request that the Japanese government be kept off passenger ships entering and leaving American ports. Secretary Lansing would not discuss the communication to-day, but it was learned that an attempt was being made to reach an informal understanding with Italy and France similar to that already existing with Great Britain.

The note was prompted by the arrival of the Japanese battleship, the

at New York of several armed Italian vessels, with consequent protests from the Austrian Embassy. Secretary Lansing is anxious to avoid, if possible, raising the issue in a formal and definite way, preferring to wait until a case actually arises through the destruction of one of the armed ships by a submarine. Meanwhile, however, he believes that the danger of such a case arising can be largely minimized if the Allied powers will agree not to arm ships trading with American ports.

Secretary Lansing to-day, and objected strongly to any change in the State Department's attitude toward armed vessels. Although Great Britain had agreed not to arm ships touching American ports, he said, she would like to have it well understood that the agreement was purely informal so that an attack on any armed vessel

The State Department has tried to dodge the whole question for several months. It arose first in the case of the British steamer *Hesperian*, torpedoed without warning by a German submarine in the "great open." Some

The Persia also carried a gun, and when the liner was sunk the State Department feared that it was at its face to face with the armament question. The responsibility for the Persia's destruction, however, cannot

The arrival of the Italian steamer *Giuseppe Verdi* with two guns on board brought forth a prompt protest from the Austrian Embassy, and Secretary Lansing was again obliged to ponder the question. After some hesitation he agreed to permit the *Verdi* to sail on condition that the Italian

basically guaranteed the guns would be used to attack submarines who might attempt to warn the Verdi. The Verdi case was dealt with on its individual merits, it was stated, and obviously with the hope that a similar case would not soon arise.

Eventually, it is believed, the State Department will have to come out squarely on the issue, and then, according to present indications, will decide that Americans who travel on armed ships do so at their own risk.

and forfeit all claim to protection from this government if they are attacked without warning by submarines. The German and Austrian governments believe this attitude should be taken and that Secretary Lansing will take it. They have been advised to that effect by their embassies here.

OFFICIALS GET BLAME IN E-BOAT INQUEST

Naval officials who were in charge of the submarine E-2 when several men lost their lives in an explosion were held directly responsible for the fatalities by a Coroner's jury yesterday. While no names are mentioned, the verdict is looked upon as an official rebuke to Lieutenant Ralph T. Kraft, who was in charge of the navy yard at the time, and Lieutenant Charles M. Cooke, commander of the submarine.

The jurors, who had authority to inquire into the death of the three civilians only, held that the deaths were the result of "negligence on the part of"

result of a gas explosion which was unknown. But the verdict concluded with these words: "It is our unanimous decision that the authorities in charge were responsible, and should not have permitted employees and others to enter the United States submarine E-2 without proper tests and

HIRED MURDERER, 19, TO DIE

Impoluzzo, Only One Convicted in Harlem's Twenty Killings, Sentenced.

Antonio Impoluzzo, nineteen years old, the only man to be convicted in connection with twenty murders committed in Harlem's Little Italy since 1912, was sentenced yesterday by Justice Weeks in the Supreme Court to die in the electric chair in the week of

March 7. Impoluzzo shot at First Tommaso Lamente last October at First Avenue and 11th Street. Lamente aspired to succeed Giosue Gallucci, the Italian policy king of Harlem.

Assistant District Attorney Wellman, who prosecuted the case, has been working on Impoluzzo in the hope that the young gangster would turn informer before his execution.

INSURANCE AGENTS SING
New York Life Employees Give Concert
at Aeolian Hall.

The word Nylie before the full name, Nylie Choral Society, contains no great mystery, but only the initials of the New York Life Insurance Company. Yet the programme given at Aeolian last night contained proof of good

Bruno Huhn was the conductor, and Boris Hambourg, violinist; Harry Gilbert, pianist, and Francis Moore, organist, were the assisting artists. The programme contained songs favorites tried and true, ranging in authorship from Stephen Foster to Adolphe Procter, "Old Folks at Home," "Old Black Joe" and "The Lost Chord" were only a few in an evening of songs well enjoyed.